

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

November 19, 1981

#7

RE: Co-op Mining Company
Bear Creek Canyon Portal
ACT/015/025
Emery County, Utah

A partial inspection was conducted at the Bear Creek Canyon Development on October 15, 1981, by Jean Doutre and Sandy Pruitt, accompanied by Wendell Owen of Co-op Mining Company.

The purpose of this inspection was to observe the progress being made on the following stipulations cited in Mr. Helfrich's memo of March 31, 1981, Toward Compliance Prior to Commencement of Mining Activities.

Stipulation #1 Mining within 100 feet of the major normal faults.

The status still exists. No mining has occurred at this time.

Stipulation #2 Roads being built.

Construction of the Class I road leading from Huntington Canyon Highway to the coal loadout pad is still not completed. Construction of the Class II road leading from the lower pad up to the portal area is completed except for minor grading. Six cross drain culverts have been installed, and rip rap is in place. Berms have been constructed on the outside of the road and a runoff control ditch formed against the high inside bank. On the upper road area, two eight inch diameter diversion culverts have been installed near the mine portal area to channel runoff from the high wall safely down the slope to the lower pad area and the sediment pond.

Stipulation #3 Culverts and diversions.

The 60 inch culvert that was placed in the crossing of Bear Creek, has been rip rapped and fitted with a trash rack. The 230 foot long culvert pipe that carries runoff from the disturbed upper pad, has a trash rack and rip rap at the top inlet. It also has large rocks placed in the canyon at its base to act as an energy dissipator before runoff enters into the sedimentation pond.

Stipulation #4 Grading of the pad at the face up.

This area has been graded and bermed to control runoff and channel it toward the underground workings. The mine has not yet been opened so the water has to be diverted away into the drainage pipe below the portal pad area.

Stipulation #5 The fuel storage facility described on the map, of the lower pad.

This has not been decided as to the exact location. A 2000 gallon fuel tank was purchased this year but it has not been put into the ground or filled. A truck with a 500 gallon tank is still being used to fill the road equipment. It is parked in a depression to contain any spills, and has straw bales placed in front of it. These straw bales can be easily moved when the truck has to be moved to refill it.

The following six areas of concern were noted at the inspection or have since been brought to the attention of the Division.

1. A Notice of Area of Concern was written at the time of this inspection, October 15, 1981, regarding blocked drainage along the upper pad which disturbs the hydrologic balance and contributes sediments to the undisturbed area from above. Compliance required the company to re-establish the drainage channel blocked by material and rip rap or otherwise line the channel so as to minimize erosion and additional contributions of sediment to the runoff. Mr. Owen said by telephone December 1, 1981, this had been cleaned out, rip rapped and the eight inch outflow pipe was channelling runoff down the slope below the pad.

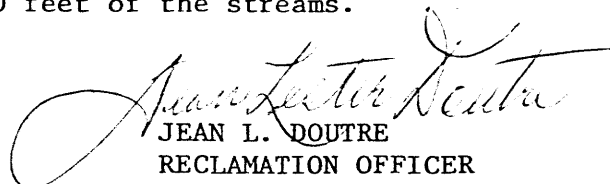
2. A series of problems face the company in regard to compliance to county ordinances. Building plans should have been submitted to the Emery County Zoning Administrator and building permits applied for. There is still litigation regarding Bear Spring, which flows out near the mine. The county attorney, Mr. Scott Johnson, has issued an order to cease and desist all construction until these requirements are met.

3. NOV# N81-2-7-2 was written "for failure to construct and maintain Class III roads to control or minimize erosion, and siltation is deemed likely to have resulted in water pollution for sedimentation, flooding and reduced revegetation potential." It was noted at this inspection that erosion still exists at the point where a culvert was removed in Bear Creek. As agreed, adequate plans for reclamation should be prepared in accordance with the Utah Power and Light access requirements and regulations 817.43, 817.45 and 817.170-.176.

4. Plans should be made to work with the County Road Commission in regard to construction requirements for the Class I road from the highway up to the loadout, including the area of private land below the mine permit area, so work can proceed in the spring.

5. The four foot long roof bolts being used as perimeter markers were not easily seen. Mr. Owen was asked to flag these for better visibility. He said he had used bright yellow streamers to highlight these markers.

6. Buffer zone markers will be required to be placed along Bear Creek to warn against any disturbance within 100 feet of the streams.


JEAN L. DOUTRE
RECLAMATION OFFICER

cc: Tom Ehmett
Wendell Owen
Inspection Staff

JLD/tr

Statistics: See Church Mine Memo, October 13, 1981
Grant A and E